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The Hongkong Telegraph

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FAIR.
Barometer 29.87.

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March 8, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 59 2 p.m. 66
Humidity 81 72

March 8, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 60 2 p.m. 60
Humidity 93 83

7605 日五十月

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1917.

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\$36 PER ANNUM.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

GERMAN TYRANNY IN BELGIUM.

The Whole Population Thrown Into Unemployment.

London, March 7.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, the *Telegraph* says the Germans have ordered a complete stoppage of Belgian industries, thus practically throwing into unemployment the whole population, alleging inadequacy of coal and transport. Store houses at Hasselt, containing 20,000 kilograms of coffee, besides other foodstuffs belonging to the Belgio-American Relief Committee, have been destroyed by fire.

ITALY AND SUBMARINISM.

New Department to Cope With the Menace.

London, March 7.

Reuter's correspondent at Rome states that a new Anti-Submarine Department, under an Admiral, has been created. Its functions include the arming of merchantmen and the rewarding of those sinking or disabling submarines.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

French Attacks on German Positions.

London, March 7.

A German official wireless message states:—We repulsed French attacks on our new positions in Caucieres wood. We shot down fifteen aeroplanes.

Lively Attacks on French Front.

London, March 7.

A French communique says:—We were successful in a coup de main at Quenneviers, between the Oise and the Aisne, and brought back prisoners. We blew up a mine in the region of Four de Paris, in Argonne, and occupied the crater.

The enemy attempted a coup de main north-east of Elirey, at Bois Boucrot, north of St. Mihiel, and in the direction of Ammerzwiller. Our barrage of fire stopped him dead and inflicted losses. Two enemy aeroplanes were brought down.

THE GREEK SITUATION.

Reassuring Statement by Mr. Balfour.

London, March 7.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour stated that the evacuation of troops and artillery from the North of Greece was proceeding satisfactorily, but certain demands were still unfulfilled. About six thousand regulars and three thousand gendarmes were still north of Peloponnese. The Greek Government has released the Venizelists and has promised to abandon proceedings against them.

IRISH HOME RULE.

Favoured by Australian Senate.

London, March 7.

According to a message from Melbourne, the Senate has passed a resolution by 28 votes to two in favour of Home Rule for Ireland.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor's Plea.

London, March 7.

In the House of Commons, Mr. T. P. O'Connor moved that, with view to strengthening the hands of the Allies in achieving the recognition of equal rights of small nations, and the principle of nationality against the opposite German principles of militarism and Government without the consent of the governed, it is essential to immediately confer on Ireland the free institutions which have long been promised her. He appealed to the House to make a united and genuine effort to settle the Irish question.

AMERICA AND AUSTRIA.

"Relations Must be Immediately Broken Off."

London, March 7.

The New York papers comment scathingly on the Austrian Note. The *Times* says that the reasoning therein surmises in hardship the most daring exploits of the German mind during the whole of the war.

The *Herald* says that Austria was given the opportunity to choose between Prussianism and decency; therefore relations must be immediately broken off.

MESOPOTAMIAN COMMANDER PROMOTED.

London, March 7.

Major General Frederick Stanley Maude has been promoted Lieutenant General for distinguished service in Mesopotamia.

ITALIANS PENETRATE ENEMY LINES.

London, March 7.

An Italian official wireless message states:—We repulsed, with heavy losses, a night attack at Osta Bella, and penetrated lines at Moosagh, on the Asiago plateau.

THE IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

London, March 7.

In the House of Commons, Sir O. Kimloch-Cooke, asked whether the Government intended to hold a series of War Cabinet meetings in the near future, replied that until the delegates arrived he could not answer that point.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

THE LLOYD GEORGE CONSPIRACY TRIAL.

Story of One of the Prisoners.

London, March 7.

At the Old Bailey, in the Lloyd George conspiracy trial, Mrs. Wheelton gave evidence to the effect that a Secret Service agent, named Gordon, told her that he was a conscientious objector and had been helping those who were interned to escape. This naturally interested her, owing to her sympathies with conscientious objectors. She bargained with Gordon that she would get him to poison and to kill the dogs in the internment camps, to enable his friends to escape, if he would help her son and two other youths to flee the country to avoid conscription.

THE MESOPOTAMIA CAMPAIGN.

Huge Enemy Booty Abandoned.

London, March 7.

A Mesopotamian official message says:—Cavalry engaged Turkish rearguards on March 5 at Lujji, near Qasr-i-Shan. Enemy booty is strewn over eighty miles of country, and it is impossible to give accurate figures of the captures. Thirty-eight guns up to the present have been salvaged from the river.

THE EASTERN CAMPAIGN.

A Tremendous Task Ahead.

London, March 7.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, a Deputy from Champs de Laine, who was sent on a mission to Salonica by the Foreign Affairs Committee, states that if General Sarrail had two more divisions when Monastir fell, he would have gone to Uskub, liberating half of Serbia and threatening the high road to Constantinople. However, a gigantic work had been accomplished, and the army was now reinforced. He urges that the blockade of the Otranto Channel should be completed and the road from Sainti Quaranta to Monastir should be finished, thus enabling troops and material to be brought up more quickly. He concludes:—"A tremendous task confronts the Eastern Army."

TURKS LOSING HEART IN EGYPT.

London, March 7.

An Egyptian official message says:—The Turks have abandoned strong positions at Sheikhnuri, to the west of Shellal, upon which they had spent two months constructing defenses. Yesterday our aeroplanes dropped a ton of high explosives on troops and railways.

[In the event of telegrams arriving too late for insertion on this page they will be found on an Extra.]

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

TRIAL OF MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S CONSPIRATORS.

London, March 6.

The trial of the alleged conspirators against Mr. Lloyd George, mentioned on January 31, has opened at the Old Bailey before Mr. Justice Low, the Mahomedan barrister, Mr. Riza, defending.

The Attorney General (Sir F. E. Smith) prosecuting, suggested that the attitude of mind and conduct of the prisoners was due to an unreasoning, inveterate hatred of Great Britain, a profound dislike of compulsion and other measures for the defense of the country and a hatred of statesmen whose duty it had been to recommend the adoption of such measures. He maintained that the prisoners were a gang of dangerous revolutionaries, and the State would be lacking in its duty if it had failed to get into touch with such persons by means of its secret agents.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

British Make Further Progress.

London, March 7.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We made further progress to the north-west of Ires and north of Pasmour au Mont. We raided the trenches to the east of Bouchavennes. Later artillery dispersed the enemy massing for a counter-attack on the trenches recently captured there.

French Demolish Dugouts.

London, March 6.

A French communique says:—Between the Oise and the Aisne destructive fire wrecked enemy organizations north-west of Moulin Sout au Vent. We demolished casemates and dugouts north of Autrechos. There were violent artillery actions north of the Mouse along the Chambray-Bezonvaux front, but no infantry fighting.

ENEMY MILITARY CLAIMS.

London, March 6.

A Berlin official message says that there was most violent artillery firing on the right bank of the Somme. We repulsed British attacks to the east of Bouchavennes, and a Russian attack south of Brezany and in the southern part of the wooded Carpathians.

ITALIANS THRUST BACK THE ENEMY.

London, March 6.

An Italian official message states:—We repulsed repeated attack at Oostaballa, capturing one gun. We drove off with heavy losses renewed attacks to the south-east of Ver-toiba and the Julian front.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

RUSSIANS PURSUE TURKS.

London, March 6.

A Russian wireless official message states:—In the Caucasus we are pursuing the Turks who are withdrawing to Bidjarsonne. We occupied the villages of Husseinabad and Chariak. We attacked in the direction of Hamadan to the south-east of Abol Lake, pursuing the Turks towards Dovletabad. Our airships bombed Baranovitchi.

U.S. AND ARMED NEUTRALITY.

Washington, March 7.

In the Senate Mr. Lodge introduced the Armed Neutrality Bill at the Extra Session, but the Chairman ruled it out on the ground that Congress was not in Session. Notice was given of intention to amend the rules. It is proposed to hold a Senatorial Conference of the opposing parties to discuss measures for the prevention of "unlimited debates."

APPAM'S OWNERSHIP DECIDED.

Washington, March 7.

The Supreme Court has finally confirmed British ownership of the s.s. Appam, which was kidnapped last year.

THE ENTENTE AND THE COLONIES.

Trade and Tariff Problems.

There is one curious feature in the present relations between France and Britain. Both countries seem to be equally eager to establish a close economic alliance. Both seem to overlook the colonial side of the problem. The ignorance of the average Frenchman as to the enormous wealth contained in the British Empire is simply stupendous. The average Englishman, on the other hand, has only a vague notion of what the Colonial Empire of France may be; he rather suspects that it is a collection of failures. We have not learned yet to place our future Franco-British policy on an imperial basis; and our way of speculating about our Alliance does not differ much from what it was in the good old days of Henry V., when the Queen of France, in Shakespeare's play, expressed the wish:—"That English may as French, French Englishmen, receive each other!"

Just to illustrate the anomalousness of some of the Franco-British inter-colonial relations, let me quote the typical instance of Madagascar and South Africa. Every educated Englishman knows that British South Africa is going to be in a very near future an enormous industrial country. Is he aware that the French island of Madagascar, which is placed at the very door of South Africa, is developing fast into an important agricultural colony, the external trade of which is increasing even during the war, and will have reached in 1918 the respectable figure of seven million sterling? Is he aware that Madagascar and South Africa are in many ways complementary to each other? While South Africa can or will be able to supply coal, agricultural equipment, European crops and cattle, Madagascar has big reserves of excellent wood and raises tropical products of every description, such as rice and manioc, a certain variety of peas which is used for the manufacture of biscuit, not to mention salt and other secondary articles which might be welcome in South Africa.

There is no doubt that, had things been allowed to follow their natural course, the trade relations between the British Dominion and the French Colony would by now be very considerable. As a matter of fact, the artificial difficulties I shall point out presently have not prevented a certain intercourse from taking place between them during the war. One of the consequences of the war has been to isolate that remote part of the world from Europe and therefore to bring the British and French establishments closer together. But a comparison between two figures will suffice to show that trade conditions are still very unsatisfactory. The trade between Madagascar and Mauritius in 1915 reached a little over \$120,000. In the same year the trade between South Africa and Madagascar amounted only to \$30,000. A Chinaman might be tempted to infer from this that Mauritius is a far richer country than South Africa.

Now, the first reason for this strange state of things is that while Mauritius is connected with Madagascar by two shipping lines running several times every month, only one ship a month goes from Madaga to Durban, and this only since 1913. Where there are no ships, there is no trade. If the French Government follow the suggestion made by the local administration of Madagascar, and starts a shipping line which will connect the French island not only with Durban but with East London, Port Elizabeth, and Cape Town, things will certainly improve at once, and the South African colonists will come to Antsirabe, the waters of which are already renowned, as their forefathers in England used to go to Bath.

Shipping, however, is not the only point. The real difficulty is the tariff system. I have no hesitation in saying that the main responsibility for the tariff wall which now separates the two colonies lies with the French. The narrow-minded, high protectionist policy which has prevailed in some parts of the French Colonial Empire since 1897 is nowhere as objectionable as in Madagascar, which has been surrounded by an almost prohibitive tariff. On the other hand, imports from Madagascar into South Africa are subjected to high duties even when they do not compete with local products. Rice pays one shilling per hundred pounds; manioc and tropical peas, two shillings. No wonder that both countries find it difficult to profit by each other's present and potential wealth.

Is this system going to prevail after this war? Are we going to allow the British and French Empires to wage against each other a tariff war, while Great Britain and France will have established intimate economic relations at home? The only thing one can do at present is to ask thinking people in both countries to consider the question.

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POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to-day by Mr. F. C. Jenkins, D.S.P. (Reserve), state:—

Musketry Course: Part II. All members of No. 2 Company qualified to fire Part II of the 1917 Course will attend the Range on Sunday next, March 11. Uniform with helmets. Those in possession of Service rifles will bring same to the range. Leave Blakes Pier at 9 a.m., returning about 3.30 p.m.

Staff Inspectors McEwen, Mackenzie and Arnold, Crown Sergeants Wilks and Ford and Sergeant Goodwin will attend for range duties. All ranks will make their own traffic arrangements. Examination of Rifles.

All Winchester are to be returned to Armory on Tuesday, March 13, between 5.15 and 6 p.m.

Parades:—

Monday, March 12.—All Recruits except No. 2 Company.

Tuesday, March 13.—No. 2 Company Recruits Platoon.

Wednesday, March 14.—All Recruits except No. 2 Company.

Friday, March 16.—No. 2 Company Recruits Platoon.

Band.

Practice.—Wednesday, March 14, at 6 p.m.

Strength.

Crown Sergeant 15 James Wong is permitted to revert to the ranks.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre.—9.15 p.m.

Bijou Theatre.—9.15 p.m.

New Hongkong Cinematograph.—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

H.K. Horticultural Society.—Annual Show at Botanic Gardens (Second Day).

Victoria Theatre.—9.15 p.m.

Bijou Theatre.—9.15 p.m.

New Hongkong Cinematograph.—9.15 p.m.

there seems to be some hope that the old system may change for the better. Colonial protectionists are still very powerful, as they find a good deal of support among certain classes of manufacturers in the textile and metal industries. But the large majority of the French public and the whole French commercial world are linked with the local interests in the colonies in an effort to discover a more liberal policy. They are prepared to admit that some protection may be kept in the colonies for those special articles which are imported from France, but rightly contend that if French textiles must be protected in Madagascar it is not a reason for excluding from the same island South African coal or agricultural implements.

The problem from the British point of view is, of course, a different one, not only because a self-governing Dominion like South Africa is free to frame its own tariff, but also on account of the present advocacy of a preferential tariff inside the Empire. However, it does not seem that the adoption of imperial preferences would prevent the British Empire from making either general or local arrangements of the kind suggested by the French anti-protectionists themselves. Why, for instance, should South Africa practically exclude wool from Madagascar if it can get it more quickly and cheaply than from any other part of the world?

It appears, therefore, that there must be a way out of the present tangle. What the exact solution may be will have to be determined by experts. Colonists can only express the hope that a broad view will be taken of the economic field in which British and French co-operation is to be organized in the future. An obvious provision must not be made to prevent both nations from benefiting that they are both so near to each other.

Is this system going to prevail after this war? Are we going to allow the British and French Empires to wage against each other a tariff war, while Great Britain and France will have established intimate economic relations at home? The only thing one can do at present is to ask thinking people in both countries to consider the question.

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PRACTICAL CHRONOMETER AND WATCHMAKER
 DATE OF ONE YEAR'S STUDY
 FROM THE ADDRESS: 4 D'Almeida Street

WATSON'S OLD BROWN SHERRY.

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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
HONGKONG.
TELEPHONE NO. 616.

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All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

Cable Address: Telegraph, Hongkong.

Telephones: No. 1 A.B.C., 5th edition. Western Union.
Office address: 11, Ice House St.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1917.

THE PEKING CRISIS.

In a sudden burst of energy and of confidence, Benter yesterday revealed what everyone in Hongkong knew already: that matters in Peking, in connection with the China-German situation, have reached a critical stage. One noteworthy point in the position is that the present is probably the first occasion whereon Li Yuan-hung has held out against his Cabinet on any important matter. The fact seems to show that the President can be firm, or can assume an air of firmness, under certain circumstances—those circumstances being, presumably, the consciousness of German support. Mr. Li has always been described by the Hongkong Chinese as a figure-head and a puppet, and it looks remarkably as though he is prepared to continue as such, though at the mercy of a new set of wire-pullers. Be that as it may, the Cabinet has resigned, and he must either call a new one or else must be prepared to take, at the eleventh hour, the advice of his Ministers, all of whom are now very decidedly in favour of war.

It will be time enough when peace comes, to discuss the various notions of the British Legation. It is sufficient now to say that the standing puzzle to every Britisher in Hongkong, and to every Chinese who has felt a serious interest in the tide of events during the past two and a half years, is that measures were not taken at the outbreak of war to persuade China to enter the Entente. China was open to persuasion; but our diplomatists have thought well to put off till now any very ardent attempt to make a friend of her. The unfortunate part of the delay is that a number—perhaps a big number—of the Chinese will be saying that Britain is merely seeking to exploit their country; and this, together with the lies and bribery so skillfully arranged by Admiral von Hantz, still renders the entry of China somewhat uncertain. The Germans fear, but still hope; for it is natural that they should argue that, if they can humbug Li Yuan-hung as they have done, they ought not to have much difficulty in keeping the general public of the country in ignorance as to the real course of the war events. Long before it had ever occurred to our sapient Foreign Office to enter upon an educative campaign all over China regarding the war, the Hun had sown lies thickly in every province and among all classes, had obtained control of a large section of the native press and had put lying pamphlets into the hand of every schoolboy. Some day the British public may want to know why so little was done towards counteracting all this.

But just now the past will have to take care of itself. Britain and China have to make up lost ground as quickly as may be, and this can only be accomplished by perfect frankness from both sides. China's best men have not the least doubt as to the line which it is her duty to pursue. By joining the Allies she gains financially in a number of directions to which we have many times alluded—and she lets the world see that she means to take herself seriously as a nation. The world has a habit of valuing a man accordingly as he values himself, and it applies the same rule to nations. If China is going to allow her President to argue that she is a poor and weak country and desires to live on friendly terms with Germany as with Britain and France, she must pay the inevitable penalty of finding other countries regarding her as Li Yuan-hung appears to regard her. The greatest opportunity in the whole of her wonderful history lies before her: that of founding a lasting friendship with nations powerful enough to see her through all her troubles, whether domestic, financial or other, and to put her on her feet. The Chinese Republic has hitherto been, in great measure, a failure; and for this reason: that it has never completely won the confidence of its subjects. It now has ample chance to do so, by proving to them that, whatever America may choose to do in the way of leaving her children's deaths unavenged, China is too proud to lay herself open to such a charge. Germany has drowned Chinese subjects and may conceivably drown more—unless she sees that their countrymen are determined to take a hand in stopping the murders. The day that the Republic declares war on Germany will be the day on which it will convince the conflicting elements within its own territory that it has come to stay, and that China is really on her way to redemption.

A "Send-Off" for the Volunteers.

Hongkong is, we rejoice to note, showing still further signs of a desire to rid itself of its appalling unreadiness to "do the right thing." Volunteers for the Front are to be given a real send-off, and we desire to compliment the generous souls who have taken the matter in hand. As our readers are aware, we have repeatedly attacked the mean-spiritedness that allowed the first batch of men to leave without a sign of a public farewell—to sneak out of the Colony, as one might say, as though they were doing something disgraceful in offering their lives for the Empire; and it is very satisfactory to learn that that kind of thing will not be repeated. Self-respecting people here are rather tired of having to feel that this Colony is, more often than not, an object of derision and contempt to the men of Singapore and Shanghai. On the outbreak of war, Singapore's first care was to raise funds for sending home every man who wished to go but could not afford to pay his fare. Did Hongkong do this? In Shanghai the men for the Front were fêted right and left and the bulk of the British and French population lined up to see them on board. In Hongkong, when men arrived who had been at the Front, no more notice was taken of them than if they had been returned Chinese deportees, until the Police Reserve took the matter in hand. But now the Colony really is trying to see the error of its ways and we fervently hope that its conversion will prove a lasting one.

"The Effeminate American." Under the above heading we reprinted yesterday a United States paper's comments on some very practical remarks of Rear Admiral Thomas, U. S. N., who complains of the growth of a spirit of effeminacy among his countrymen. No one who has watched the American attitude through the war can very well dispute the Admiral's statement. No country that really prided itself on its manliness could tolerate for a moment, e.g. the singing in public of such a ditty as "I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier." The better type of American is sorrowfully ready to explain why any man who dared to stand on a public stage and voice such a sentiment was not promptly ducked in the nearest pond. The explanation is that, in the States, women have been allowed to get the controlling hand. In the schools it is not uncommon to find a woman at the head, and the masters meekly taking their orders from her. Corporal punishment is forbidden, and the schoolmaster who thrashed a vicious boy would be "jailed."

Then, again, there is little or no family life in America, as we understand it; the woman rules the house and it is as much as a father dare do to discipline his own children. The boys, having been ruled by women and taught the most outrageous sentimentality, either kick over the traces at the first possible moment, and ridicule their elders and all that these have taught them, or else grow up into people like Mr. William Bryan. Thus we have (thank Heaven there are many splendid exceptions) two classes of people in the States: the one, that is dead to all sense of duty and moral obligation, that will stick at nothing to gain its commercial ends, and that sees nothing that is not admirable even in a person of the Harry Thaw type; and the other, that welcomes every crime, from women's rights to Billy Sundayism with both hands, and that recognizes no absurdity in forbidding an entire State to harbor any alcohol within its borders or in encouraging shore drunkenness among blue-jackets by making it impossible for them to get a drink on board. Nothing short of a big war of her own is likely to help America out of the miserable depths to which she has sunk. Since the Civil War her people have been quite content to play at soldiers—for the Spanish affair can hardly be taken seriously. If she is to be saved, it will only be by an invasion that will arouse the dormant manhood of the country, and that will teach the women that their proper place is the second and not the first.

DAY BY DAY.

MAKING MONEY AND MAKING LOVE ARE ALIKE IN THAT THE MORE YOU GET THE MORE YOU WANT.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 4.1/16d.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the 55th anniversary of the fight between the Merrimac and the Monitor.

Correspondence.
"Spectator."—Your letter is unavoidably held over until to-morrow.

The Bishop's Engagements.
The Bishop of Victoria will to-morrow, (Friday) give a Lent lecture to ladies in the Chapel attached to his house at St. Paul's College at 10.45 a.m., the subject being, "Spiritual Vision." On Sunday next he will preach for the Bible Society at St. Stephen's Chinese Church West Point at 11 a.m. and at St. John's Cathedral at 8 p.m. on, "What Christ may do for every man—Keep him from falling."

A Pall and a Prize.
Inspector Taylor of the Police Reserve summoned a Chinese at the Police Court this morning for street gambling. The Inspector said the defendant was in Ko Shing Street with a stall on the footpath. A boy gave him ten cents, taking several pulls at the board (produced). He did not win anything and put down another ten cents, and after another pull he received two packets of preserved sweets. Several other boys had tried. Defendant said the game was for fun. Even if a man did not get a marble into a hole he received two packets of sweets, and if he was successful he got more. A fine of \$5 was imposed, and the money found on defendant was confiscated.

HOW LILLE IS ROBBED.

Incendiarism and the Sequel.

A French business man, who has been at Lille since the beginning of the war, and was lately released, owing to age and ill-health, gives in the *Matin* some account of the depredations committed by the Germans at Lille. The town has been over and over again fired. In 1915 a huge fine of 18,000,000 francs (£270,000) was exacted—the third; the municipality refused to pay it, whereupon the Germans broke into the cellar of the town hall, burst open the safes with a blow-pipe, and removed all the coin in them in two motor-cars. Last July one more fine was imposed of 22,000,000 francs (£330,000). German methods of commandeering are equally unscrupulous and thorough. Officers walk into the shops armed with requisition orders, and carry off whatever goods they fancy. In many cases these goods are brought back to Lille from Germany by German tradesmen, who re-sell them at exorbitant prices. This is specially the case with wine. Payments by the Germans are made in paper currency. In this connection a remarkable incident happened on Easter Sunday. A report got about that the town hall would be set on fire that night. Sure enough, two hours later a fire did break out. Another curious coincidence was that, when the firemen arrived, they found that all their hose pipes had been cut and were useless. German officers during the fire sat at a cafe opposite admiring what they called a "magnificent spectacle." It was afterwards ascertained that the fire was due to incendiarism, having been lit at four different parts of the building at once. The German authorities decided that the incendiarism must be hoodlums, who were never traced. Finally, by a still more curious coincidence, 240,000,000 worth of the paper currency issued by the German army in payment of requisitioned goods was destroyed in that fire. "One milliard gone in smoke," said German officers afterwards. What a loss for Lille! And they roared with laughter.

ANTIMONY ORE.

Money Loan Claims by European Engineers.

At the Summary Court this morning, before the Chief Justice (Sir William Rees Davies) two claims of \$1,000 each were heard, brought respectively by Mr. J. F. Lysaught, an engineer, of 2, Hotel Mansions, and Mr. O. F. Starkey, a mining engineer, of the same address, against a Chinese carpenter, of 20, Water Street, whose name is Lai Kam. In the case brought by Mr. Lysaught it was claimed that \$1,000 was lent to the defendant on March 13 last, and in the other case \$1,000 was stated to have been lent to the defendant on March 28.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner represented both plaintiffs, and Mr. G. R. Haywood defended.

The claim of Mr. Lysaught was heard first. Mr. Gardiner first asked for permission to amend his claim as follows:—"The plaintiff claims the sum of \$1,000 as the return of money paid to the defendant for the purchase of antimony ore which defendant had failed to deliver."

Some argument took place on this application, and eventually the amendment was allowed, the defendant to have the costs of any adjournment which was necessary in consequence.

In outlining the facts, Mr. Gardiner said that the two plaintiffs were concerned together in the China Mining Metal Company. Early in March, 1916, the defendant who was well-known to the plaintiffs, went to their office and said he could secure antimony ore for \$7 or \$8 a picul, delivered in Hongkong. This was considered a fair price, and after further negotiations Mr. Lysaught promised to advance defendant \$1,000. On March 13, an interview took place in the Edward Hotel, and it was there that the money was advanced, defendant giving the receipt (produced). Defendant went up country to secure the ore, and, on returning, in a fortnight's time, told plaintiff that the ore had been secured, but that it was not sufficient to fill a junk or boat, and that it would be better to purchase some more and have it brought down at the same time. Agreeing to this suggestion, Mr. Starkey advanced defendant another \$1,000, and defendant was told to have the ore stored at Canton to the order of the plaintiffs. Defendant again went away and when he came back he said the ore was stored in a certain godown, near to the station. Mr. Lysaught, who went to Canton a few days later, went to the godown to take delivery, but was informed that there was no ore there standing in his name. Defendant, told of this, said plaintiff had gone to the wrong place, and gave him another address. At the second place plaintiff was told that there was ore there, but that it was in the name of a Company. Plaintiff could not get delivery, and when he told defendant of this, defendant said that that was the ore, and a friend of his had put it in under that name. Defendant was requested to go to Canton with plaintiff, but he said he was too busy. Just after this, the Canton trouble broke out, and they could not go. When the trouble was over, plaintiff had great difficulty in getting into touch with the defendant, but at length defendant said he had sold the ore for considerably less money. Plaintiff had never received the ore nor any money back.

Mr. Lysaught then went into the box and bore this statement out, giving details of the transaction.

Questioning plaintiff, Mr. Haywood suggested that the money was lent by the two plaintiffs for the working of mines in which they were interested, and that an agreement was made out by Mr. Starkey authorizing the terms on which the money was lent.

Plaintiff said that the agreement had nothing to do with the money in the present case, which was advanced purely to purchase ore already mined.

Further evidence was given, and the case was adjourned.

THE CHINESE BUDGET.

Estimates for Current Year.

The following are the Chinese estimates for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30 next:—

Ordinary Revenue.	
Land Tax	90,115,784
Customs Revenue	73,058,863
Salt Revenue	96,767,010
Tax on Merchandise	42,719,194
Various Principal and Miscellaneous Taxes	34,768,432
Miscellaneous Contributions	5,448,686
Income of Government Properties	2,083,401
Various Provincial Receipts	5,101,531
Receipts of Central Offices	1,374,648
Direct Central Receipts	36,584,311

The total of the Ordinary Receipts is \$388,009,660.

Extraordinary Revenue.

Land Tax	5,751,464
Customs Duty	708,885
Merchandise Tax	21,295
Principal and Miscellaneous Taxes	3,911,410
Income from Government Properties	8,351
Various Provincial & Miscellaneous Taxes	91,610
Receipts of Central Offices	2,245,437
Direct Central Receipts	23,510,969
Central Miscellaneous Receipts	8,190,000
Domestic Loans	24,291,483
Public Loans	16,187,365

The total of the Extraordinary Receipts is \$84,828,924; and the grand total of both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Receipts is \$472,838,584.

Ordinary Expenditure.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and subordinate offices	4,448,543
Ministry of Interior and its subordinate offices	42,570,109
Ministry of Finance and its subordinate offices	61,792,970
Ministry of War and its subordinate offices	158,608,047
Ministry of Navy and its subordinate offices	7,304,135
Ministry of Justice and its subordinate offices	9,837,166
Ministry of Education and its subordinate offices	4,433,893
Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and its subordinate offices	2,734,790
Ministry of Communications and its subordinate offices	1,533,608
Ministry of Board of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs and its subordinate offices	1,044,216

The total of the Ordinary Expenditure is \$291,803,470.

Extraordinary Expenditure.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its subordinate offices	\$1,848,788
Ministry of Interior and its subordinate offices	3,117,770
Ministry of Finance and its subordinate offices	162,397,632
Ministry of War and its subordinate offices	10,711,333
Ministry of Navy and its subordinate offices	847,434
Ministry of Justice and its subordinate offices	28,610
Ministry of Education and its subordinate offices	594,943
Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and its subordinate offices	1,279,496
Ministry of Communications and its subordinate offices	116,891
Board of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs	64,276

The total of the Extraordinary Expenditure is \$181,085,114; and the grand total of both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Expenditure is \$472,838,584.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

Two interesting little additions to the "R.L.S." legacy are made in the pair of shilling volumes published by Messrs. Chatto and Windus—"On the Choice of a Profession" and "The Wait Woman." The first is an essay in the true Stevensonian manner addressed to a young man about to embark on an artistic career, but apparently suppressed as too "cynical and sombre" perhaps, also, too "idealistic." Certainly it puts some plain (but generally overlooked) truths in the plainest of language:—"There is nothing so hard to get people to understand as this: They pay for their money; and nothing so difficult to make them remember as this: That money, when they have it, is for most of them at least, only a cheque to purchase pleasure with. How, then, if a man gets pleasure in following an art? He might gain more pleasure by following another; but then, although there is a difference in pleasure, the amount of pleasure is the same. He gets some of his directly; unlike the bank clerk, he is having his fortnight's holiday, and doing what delights him, all the year." Not perhaps what the average business parent would consider the safest advice for a young gentleman at the impressionable age, subject as it is to many qualifications. One would like to know for whom the advice was intended, what, after all, he did with his life. "The Wait Woman" is an eerie Icelandic story found among Mr. Stevenson's papers, and quite worth printing. The faithful army of "R.L.S." lovers will be grateful for these stray pages rescued from Time's wastepaper basket.

The latest peace "kite," which comes from Germany via Amsterdam, says the *Manchester Guardian*, is the suggested exchange of Alsace for French Indo-China. Apart from the fact that no mention is made of Lorraine, which is more French than Alsace and which is exceedingly valuable because of its mineral deposits, the French are not likely to consider for a moment the diminution of their Asiatic possessions. French Indo-China has coal, lignite, and zinc mines capable of great development, but the difficulty, of course, lies in their distance, which not only means restricted commerce but also raises questions of defence, as fairly heavy forces must be maintained there. And the average home-loving Frenchman has little desire to serve, in the East, as all who have read Haggard's "Allan Quatermain" might infer from the observations of the amusing Alphonse.

According to a Berlin newspaper, the Germans were the originators of trousers. This may be true, but at one time some of them were anything but proud of their invention. The wearing of trousers (instead of knee-breeches) was regarded by German potentates at the end of the 18th century as indicating sympathy with the sans-culottes of France. In 1790 the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel ordered that the convicts engaged in street-sweeping and road-making should be dressed in trousers, so as to disgust his subjects with this form of dress. And about the same period an edict addressed to all Government functionaries in Prussia warned them that "the wearing of trousers, and the fashion of dispensing with a wig and having the hair cut short round the head, are derogatory to the dignity and gravity of anyone occupying an official post." In England, too, trousers were in some quarters looked upon with disavour for many years after they first came into vogue. The subscription of Trinity College, Cambridge, obtained in 1815 that "students appearing in hall or chapel in pantaloons or trousers should be considered absent." The original trust deed, executed in 1850, of a Nonconformist chapel stipulates that "under no circumstances shall a preacher be allowed to occupy the pulpit who wears trousers."

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Hongkong, York Buildings. Managing Agents.

3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1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LABOUR AND THE WAR.

Interview With Mr.
J. H. Thomas.

Says the Observer:—In a recent interview with M. Edward Marshall, Mr. Samuel Gompers, the head of the American Federation of Labour, spoke strongly on the duty of British labour to do its utmost in "the struggle between militaristic domination and the domination of the fundamental principles of right government." "Hating war as I do," he added.

"If I could stop the present conflict by the raising of a finger I would not raise the finger, because I feel that something must be determined by this war; that is whether the rule of the future is to be of autocracy and militarism or of democracy, liberty, and humanity."

The text of this interview was later submitted to the well-known Labour leader, Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., who, after reading it, explained to an Observer representative the whole position of British Labour in relation to the war and to the problems which will arise after the war.

Mr. Thomas is the general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, the largest single trade union in the world. Unlike the miners, transport workers, and other unions, it is not a federation, but a separate organisation controlled by one head. Mr. Thomas has just been elected with a majority of 74,000, a fact which is itself thoroughly significant when it is remembered that he is known as a strong supporter of the war and that he has addressed more than a hundred recruiting meetings.

"I do not disguise the fact," said Mr. Thomas, "that the war was to me a bitter disappointment; not because my own country was involved, but because I had pinned my faith on the strength of German democracy, and I hoped that on an issue so close and definite as the violation of Belgium the German labour movement would have been sufficiently strong to make war impossible."

"Whatever our American comrades may think, one thing is absolutely clear—that, so far as organised labour is concerned, it gave at the outset of the war its unflinching support to the Government for its vigorous and successful prosecution. Nothing has happened, so far as the main issue is concerned, to alter this position. In fact, there is much in common in the situation. The object of the organisation of labour is for the strong to help the weak; and when we found a ruthless and barbarous invasion of Belgium in violation of a treaty obligation, and, indeed, never defended except on the grounds of military necessity, there was no other course open to us than to do as we did. If it was right that we should paralyse the railway system of this country, as we threatened to do, and as we should have done, because of a grave injustice to one of our men, was it not equally right to risk everything we possessed when an injustice, and much worse than an injustice, was being done by a strong nation to a weak?"

100,000 Railwaymen Fighting. "As evidence of the earnest determination of my own union to uphold the cause of right and justice, although we are 340,000 strong to-day, there are 100,000 of our members fighting at the front and more than 12,000 railwaymen have already paid the greatest of all sacrifices by their lives. To show, moreover, the kind of spirit that prevails at home, let me tell you that engine drivers and firemen have worked as long as thirty-eight hours on their engine in order to carry troops and munitions of war. Incidentally, my own union has invested more than a million dollars in War Loan and is now making arrangements to lend to the Government another large sum."

"It is this feeling of what I would call a high moral duty that was primarily responsible for our people leaving the workshops, mines, and railways and responding as they did to the country's call in 1914. They were not actuated by the feeling of 'my

country right or wrong,' but rather by that higher sense of duty, 'my country would be wrong if she were not doing as she is.' In spite of some domestic squabbles of which we occasionally hear and of which too much notice is often taken, that is the spirit which still animates the bulk of the people. It would be foolish to deny that there are not any folks profiting by the war—and it were better that they were banded—but happily they do not represent the great mass of the people.

Nothing but a Permanent Peace.

"Now, what about America's proposal for peace? Personally, having read Mr. Wilson's Note, I do not share the opinion that he considers the aims of the belligerents identical. It would be impossible, indeed, for a far-seeing statesman as he has proved himself to be, to make any such suggestion. As I gather his position, it is that he says each belligerent makes this claim, which is an entirely different thing, and therefore I can quite understand that his point of view is 'let us really see which of you is right.'"

"On our part we can only point to the effort that was made by this country for peace prior to the outbreak of war and also to the barbarities that have been committed since by Germany. Therefore, whilst it is true to say that we as a people are anxious for peace, it must be a peace commensurate with the sacrifices we have made. And whilst it would be criminal to prolong the war for one moment longer than is absolutely necessary, it would be an insult to the memory of our dead heroes were we to agree to any peace that would mean a repetition of all this horror and carnage."

"It is because there is no evidence that the spirit of militarism, which, after all, was primarily responsible for the war, is broken in Germany that I am afraid that peace at this moment would not be a lasting one. The war lords would point to their successes on the battlefield as a justification of their action and at all costs that spirit must be crushed."

"On the other hand, it cannot be emphasised too strongly that to us it is not a war of aggression; nor must we approach the question in a spirit of revenge, because if there is to be a permanent peace and if the lessons of this war are really learned, then the settlement must be such as will guarantee peace for the future. And here working-class opinion will play a considerable part. Labour is not weakened in this country as a result of the war. It is stronger to-day than ever. In fact, labour, as the Government of the day recognises fully, can win or lose the war. Apart entirely from those of our own people in the councils of the nation—and, incidentally let me say I hope there will be one in the councils that determine peace—Labour has been consulted in every step that has been taken for the past two years."

After the War. "I do not think for a moment there is going to be a sort of falling upon each other's necks after the war, but I am quite satisfied that as a result of the sacrifices Labour has made there will be a better appreciation of the rights to which it is entitled. In short, I am hoping that those who fought together for their country will continue to fight together to make their country worth living in."

"That there will be difficulties in the transition stage no one will deny. But here again there is a strong body of persons in this country who are watching very carefully after the war problems and I am quite certain they will be ready with concrete and definite proposals."

"I am personally sorry that the proposal of the American Federation of Labour for an International conference was not accepted. It was not because of any hostility to the American Federation—and we know that our fellow-workers in America appreciate and understand our position—but rather because of the resentment that is felt by labour in this country against their German comrades on the question of Belgium, Zepp raids, and other outrages, of which there is too much evidence of present day Germany."

SATURDAY'S CONCERT.

Farewell Entertainment to the
Hongkong Volunteer Contingent.

This has now been definitely arranged for Saturday, March 10. The dinner will be held at the Hongkong Hotel at 7.30 p.m. The variety entertainment will be given in the Theatre Royal, commencing at 9.30 p.m., by arrangement with the Bandmann Opera Company, who have kindly consented to assist in the programme.

It is impossible to accommodate at the dinner all those who desire to be hosts, and it has therefore been arranged that the choice shall rest with the guests, who have each been asked to name one. These chosen hosts will be notified by letter. The remaining hosts will receive their guests in the theatre; tickets of admission thereto will be sent. Seating accommodation at tables will be in the stalls. Smoking will be permitted. The programme will be announced later. Those who have not already signed the lists circulated, and who wish to be hosts, are requested to send their names to the Hon. Secretary, Farewell Entertainment, c/o Hongkong Club.

If by any mischance any members of the community who are leaving for the front have not received their invitation, will they kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary as above?

COMPANY REPORT.

The China Sugar Refining
Company, Ltd.

The accounts for the year ending December 31, 1916, have been closed and (subject to audit) show a net profit of about \$320,000, which, together with the sum of about \$34,000 brought forward from the previous year's accounts, make a total of about \$404,000, which the General Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Ltd.) and Consulting Committee recommend should be dealt with as follows:—

To pay a Dividend of \$12 per share (12%)	\$240,000
To place to Reserve	75,000
To write down Svatow Property	25,000
To pay a bonus to Staff	15,000
To carry forward to the next account about	49,000
	\$404,000

KROEWOEK PROFITS
AND DIVIDEND.

A Very Satisfactory Report.

Messrs. Benjamin and Potts advise as that the balance at credit of profit and loss account of Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ltd., after paying the Shanghai Office expenses and making provision for directors' and auditors' fees, is Tls. 151,845.40.

Three interim dividends, each of Tls. 0.50 per share, absorbing Tls. 82,500.00	
Final Dividend of Tls. 1.00 per share	55,000.00
Bonus to staff and manager	8,250.00
Carry forward	5,895.40
	Tls. 151,845.40

International conference will be held and I am satisfied it will do good.

Mr. Thomas added that within the last three weeks he has lost three nephews in the war. "It must not be assumed therefore," he said, "that I look upon war as anything but hell let loose. There is, however, something worse even than war, and that is disgrace. In spite of all the mistakes that have been made—and it would be foolish not to admit there had been mistakes—if the nation had not played the part she has the state of Europe and the 'whole' future of democracy would have been grave indeed."

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To-day's Flower and
Vegetable Show.

The opening day of the Flower and Vegetable Show held under the auspices of the Hongkong Horticultural Society was favoured with very fine weather, and in consequence the Botanical Gardens this afternoon presented an animated appearance, the attendance of visitors being quite large. As regards the show itself, it had been anticipated that it would well above the average of its immediate predecessors, but the actual result was in advance of the most sanguine expectations. In point of entries the show was a record, over 1,000 having been received, as compared with 612 last year and 449 the year before. The number of exhibitors was 67 as against 54 last year. This fact speaks well for the future success of such shows to the Colony, and it is to be hoped that interest in growing high-class produce will not flag for to-day's display was well worth the trouble imposed on the various competitors.

The quality of show flowers and vegetables is always contingent on the weather and the past season has not been any too kind to growers. The long, dry winter was brought to a close by a good rain-fall and the conditions changed so completely as to affect the anticipated growth. But, in spite of this fact, some remarkably fine goods were staged. In the flowers—always such a strong feature of Hongkong shows—blossoms of perfect colour and size were displayed, and so uniform were the exhibits in some of the well-filled classes that the judges had a hard task in awarding prizes. The cut flowers were better displayed this year than last, and in the pot plants section the fact was amply demonstrated that in Hongkong it is possible to grow flowering plants of charm and beauty far exceeding what is possible at home. The mass of gorgeous colours produced by the staged plants was a sight well worth seeing.

Vegetable raising suffers handicaps which have not to be encountered in the Old Country, but the producers at to-day's show, would have, in many instances, been prize-winning exhibits at almost any show. The collections were nothing less than splendid, and special mention should be made of cabbages, potatoes, peas, and carrots, which were of a standing merit. Celery, too, had been well raised. A word of praise should be given to the table decorations and the ladies who were responsible for them. The number of entries in this class was large and the picturesque adornments designed were such as to claim general admiration. The winning displays were artistic and well thought out.

The work of judging—a no light task—was performed by the following:—

Vegetables.—Mr. W. J. Tatcher and Mr. H. W. Looker.
Cut Flowers.—Mr. Newall and Mr. H. Green.
Pot Flowers.—Mr. A. Nicholson, and Mr. L. N. Lees.
Table Decorations.—All the foregoing Judges.
Last year mention was made of the fact that owing to some exhibitors not sending in their intended exhibits a good many blank places were caused in the show staging, and it is pleasing to record that this year a great improvement was seen in this respect—a fact, which, considering the weather, reflects very great credit on exhibitors generally.

The duties of Hon. Secretary were very ably discharged by Mr. A. Nicol, and the Society owes much to his energy and enthusiasm. The other officials were:—President, Mr. H. W. Looker; Treasurer, Mr. L. N. Lees; Committee, Mrs. Stubb, Mrs. Newall, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Chon, Mr. Siem, Commander Beckwith, Mr. W. J. Tatcher, Mr. W. L. Pattison, Mr. J. Scott Harrison, and Mr. O. E. H. Beavis. The show is, under the patronage of Sir Henry May and Lady May, Major General Venitt and Sir Paul Chater.

This afternoon at five o'clock the prizes were due to be presented by Lady May. The band of the 18th Infantry attended and rendered excellent selections during the afternoon. Prize List.

The prize list was as follows:—Plants in Pots—Open to all except Peak Gardens and Chinese Market Gardeners.

Marguerite (Chrysanthemum frutescens).—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Mr. A. E. Ormiston.
Nasturtium (Tall varieties).—1, Dr. Forsyth; 2, Sir Paul Chater.
Salvia.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Annuals or plants raised from seed the same season.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Dr. Forsyth.

Flowering plants other than annuals.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Antirrhinum.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Arum.—1, Mr. E. J. Chapman; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Begonia (semperflorens).—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Carnations or Picotees.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Dianthus, other varieties excluding Carnations and Picotees.—1, Dr. Forsyth; 2, Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton.

Cactus Dahlias.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton.

Dahlias, other than Cactus.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Lady Ho Tung.

Heliotrope.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Larkspur.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mrs. Jordan.

Maiden Hair Fern.—1, Mr. A. Nicol; 2, Mrs. D. Templeton.

Freesia.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Lady Ho Tung.

Geraniums.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Mignonne.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Lady Ho Tung.

French Marigolds.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton.

Pot Marigolds (calendula officinalis).—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Nasturtium (dwarf varieties).—1, Mr. A. Nicol; 2, Mr. A. J. Mackie.

Panicles.—1, Ladies Recreation Club.

Panicles or Violes.—1, Dr. Forsyth; 2, Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton.

Phlox Drummondii.—1, Dr. Forsyth; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Primula.—1, Lady Ho Tung.

Roses.—1, Sir Paul Chater.

Violets.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mrs. Jordan.

Verbena.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Mr. A. E. Ormiston.

Plants in Pots—Peak Gardens only.

Marguerite.—1, Mrs. Murray Scott; 2, Mr. G. C. Moron.

Tall Nasturtium.—1, Mr. A. H. Harris; 2, Mrs. Hay.

Dwarf Nasturtium.—1, Mr. O. D. Wilkinson; 2, Mrs. Hay.

Flowering plants, other than annuals.—1, Mr. O. D. Wilkinson.

Annuals or plants raised from seed the same season.—1, Mrs. Ede; 2, Mr. N. L. Watson.

Pot Marigolds (calendula officinalis).—1, Mr. A. H. Harris; 2, Mrs. Hay.

Maiden Hair Fern.—1, Mrs. Skelton; 2, Mrs. Murray Scott.

Mignonne.—1, Mr. H. W. Looker; 2, Mrs. Fletcher.

Verbena.—1, Mrs. G. A. Hastings; 2, Mr. J. Scott Harrison.

Panicles or Violes.—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung; 2, Mr. G. C. Moron.

Phlox Drummondii.—1, Mr. T. E. Pearce; 2, Mrs. G. L. Murray Scott.

Roses.—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung.

Vegetables, &c.—(Open to all except Peak Gardens and Chinese Market Gardeners.)

Collection of vegetables.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

French Beans.—1, Paul Chater; 2, Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton.

Beets.—1, Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Brussels Sprouts.—1, Mr. G. M. Shaw; 2, Lady Ho Tung.

Cabbages.—1, Mr. A. E. Ormiston; 2, Inspector Angus.

Cauliflowers or Broccoli.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Rt. Rev. Bishop Lander.

Carrots.—1, Mr. A. Nicol; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Heads of Celery.—1, Mr. G. M. Shaw; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Leeks.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Mr. A. Nicol.

Lettuce (cabbage varieties).—1, Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton; 2, Mr. W. Hardwick.

Lettuces (cabbage varieties).—1, Mr. A. Nicholson.

Onions.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Parsnips.—1, Mr. A. Nicol; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Pods of Peas.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Potatoes.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Ho Kom Tong.

Radishes.—1, Mr. A. E. Ormiston.

Savoy Cabbages.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton.

Tomatoes.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Mr. N. L. Watson.

Turnips.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Vegetable Marrow.—2, Mr. A. Nicol.

Vegetables etc.—(Peak Gardens Only.)

Collection of vegetables.—1, Mrs. O. M. Ede.

Beets.—1, Mrs. G. H. Gale; 2, Mr. O. D. Wilkinson.

Brussels Sprouts.—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung; 2, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson.

Cabbages.—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung; 2, Mr. H. W. Looker.

Carrots.—1, Mrs. Ede; 2, Mr. J. Scott Harrison.

Cauliflower or Broccoli.—1, Matilda Hospital; 2, Mrs. Hay.

Heads of Celery.—1, Mr. J. Scott Harrison; 2, Mrs. Ede.

Leeks.—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung; 2, Mr. H. W. Looker.

Lettuces (cabbage varieties).—1, Mr. A. H. Harris; 2, Mr. N. L. Watson.

Lettuces (cabbage varieties).—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung; 2, Mrs. Fletcher.

Parsnips.—1, Mrs. O. E. H. Beavis.

Peas.—1, Mrs. Taylor; 2, Mrs. O. E. H. Beavis.

Radishes.—1, Mr. N. L. Watson; 2, Mrs. G. A. Hastings.

Tomatoes.—1, Matilda Hospital; 2, Sir Robert Ho Tung.

Turnips.—1, Mrs. Ede.

Cut Flowers, open to all except Peak Gardens and Chinese Market Gardeners.

Cut Flowers.—1, Lady Ho Tung; 2, Mr. A. Nicol.

Sweet Peas.—1, Mr. A. Nicol; 2, Mr. N. Hardwick.

Red Pink Roses.—1, A. Nicholson.

White or Yellow Roses.—1, Mr. Ho Kom Tong; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Roses any colour.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. A. Nicholson.

Cactus Dahlias.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. A. Nicholson.

Carnations, and/or Picotees.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Dahlias other than Cactus.—1, Sir Paul Chater; 2, Mr. A. Nicol.

Mignonne.—1, Mrs. Jordan; 2, Ladies Recreation Club.

Nasturtium.—1, Mr. A. Nicholson; 2, Mr. A. E. Ormiston.

Panicles.—1, Mrs. B. Makoham; 2, Mr. A. Nicol.

Violets.—1, Mr. A. E. Ormiston; 2, Mrs. Jordan.

Cut Flowers.—(Peak Gardens Only.)

Sweet Peas.—1, Mr. H. W. Looker; 2, Mr. H. B. L. Dwyggin.

Red or Pink Roses.—No award.

Carnations or Picotees.—No award.

Cut Flowers.—1, Mr. O. D. Wilkinson; 2, Mrs. Ede.

Nasturtium.—1, Mrs. Ede; 2, Mr. O. D. Wilkinson.

Panicles.—1, Mr. N. L. Watson; 2, Mrs. Taylor.

Violets.—1, Matilda Hospital; 2, Mrs. Murray Scott.

Cactus Dahlias.—1, Sir Robert Ho Tung; 2, Mr. A. H. Harris.

Mignonne.—1, Mrs. A. H. Harris; 2, Mr. N. L. Watson.

Cut Flowers.—(Peak gardens only).—Mrs. Skelton.

Cut Flowers (open to all except Peak gardens and Chinese market gardeners).—Sir Robert Ho Tung.

Pot Plants (Peak gardens only).—Mrs. Skelton.

Cut Flowers (open to all except Peak gardens and Chinese market gardeners).—Mr. A. H. Harris.

Cut Flowers (Peak gardens only).—Mr. O. D. Wilkinson.

GYMKHANA SEASON.

Programme for the First Meeting.

The first Gymkhana is fixed for Saturday, April 21. The provisional programme is as follows:—

1.—Half mile for non-winning subs. with allowances for non-placed ponies and for jockeys.
2.—Gymkhana Stakes. One mile.

3.—B. Class Handicap. Once Round.

4.—Tent Pegging.

5.—One mile for subs. any season. Penalties for winners. Allowances for unplaced ponies and jockeys.

6.—La'ies' Nomination Bending.

7.—A Class Handicap. 1 1/4 mile.

CANTON AND GERMANY.

Absurd Telegram from Kwang-
tung Assembly Members.

The following telegram has been addressed to the President by several Members of the Kwangtung Provincial Assembly:—

"Hitherto China has followed a peaceful policy in her dealings with foreign nations. At this time, when the foundation of the Republic is being laid and the Constitution of the nation is being framed, it is imperative that we should devote our attention to improve the administration, and seek to keep peace with all nations. However, we are surprised to learn that, at the instigation of some persons, China is going to break off diplomatic relations with Germany. In view of the present circumstances not only will there be no advantage for China to take part in the war, but she will suffer for the step so rashly taken. She has no men-of-war, no arms and ammunition. She cannot take an active part with Entente Powers in the war, but she will endanger her own existence."

"It is expected that before long peace will be restored, and should we remain neutral we shall have a voice as a peacemaker in the coming peace conference. It is therefore the duty of the Central Government to continue in its neutral policy, and to turn a deaf ear to all inducements to join the Allies. We must not act against humanity and principle, nor can we afford to break off diplomatic relations with any Power. Any false step taken will certainly affect the internal situation of the country. It is hoped that the President and all Central Officials will give no ear to rumours and wild projects, but will try their very best to improve internal administration and commence all kinds of reform."

General Exhibits—(Open to all.)

Ladies' Flower sprays and 2 Gentlemen's Button Holes.—1, Miss Soarlan.

Out Roses.—1, Mr. A. Nicholson; 2, Sir Paul Chater.

Best Wedding Bouquet.—1, Mrs. J. J. Harrington; 2, Mrs. Hay.

Vase of Cut Flowers for decorative effect.—1, Mrs. J. J. Harrington; 2, Mrs. Hay.

Basket of Out Flowers for children between the ages of 7 and 15.—1, Miss Ormiston; 2, Miss Stall; b. c., Miss Frances M. Stevenson.

Best Table Decoration.—1, Mrs. J. J. Harrington; 2, Mrs.

